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STIRRING UP SPOOKS

During his espionage trial in Los Angeles late last month, 23-year-old Christopher Boyce lobbed a bombshell that exploded in Australia. Boyce, an American who was convicted of passing top-secret information to Soviet agents, charged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency had deliberately misled Australian officials about a variety of intelligence matters, manipulated the country's trade-union movement and sought to influence the nation's internal political affairs.

Though whispers of such things have been around for years, Boyce's allegations stirred the Australian press to launch new investigations into the function of a secret U.S. intelligence base at Pine Gap in central Australia—and into the sudden dismissal of then Prime Minister Gough Whitlam eighteen months ago. The result has been a political storm with Whitlam and Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser publicly accusing each other of Watergate-style wrongdoing and trade-union leaders demanding a government probe.

So far, little hard evidence to support Boyce's story has been turned up. One U.S. State Department official describes the charges as "a last, desperate attempt" by Boyce to "avoid punishment." With the apparent help of Whitlam's Labor Party, however, the Australian press has obtained classified documents that do raise questions about the CIA's activities in Australia. One of the more controversial of these documents is a cable sent to Canberra by an Australian intelligence officer in Washington on the day before Whitlam was ousted by Governor-General Sir John Kerr.

The cable outlined CIA complaints about Whitlam, who had only days before identified the head of the Pine Gap installation as a CIA agent. According to some press reports, a senior Australian Defense Department official followed up the cable by informing Kerr that the CIA was

going to cut off contact with the Australian intelligence service unless Whitlam stopped "jeopardizing the security bases in Australia." But whether or not Kerr was in any way influenced by the CIA's unhappiness with Whitlam remains a matter of speculation. In fact, Australia was in the midst of a potentially catastrophic economic and political crisis at the time the Governor-General acted.

Eavesdropping: All of Australia's last five Prime Ministers—including Whitlam—have maintained that the U.S. intelligence bases are purely defensive. The Pine Gap base has been presented to the Australian public as a receiving station for transmissions from a satellite that eavesdrops on Soviet and Chinese military outposts. But some newspapers have charged that Australian officials have not been fully informed about the base's activities. Reportedly, Whitlam was not told the installations were put on military alert during the 1973 Mideast war or that successive heads of the Pine Gap base have been CIA men.

The source of many of these allegations is Victor Marchetti, the former CIA agent who has become one of the Agency's harshest critics—and who has collected a \$1,500 fee from a Sydney newspaper for his observations on the affair. According to Marchetti, workers at the Pine Gap installation were specifically instructed not to share with the Australians certain information gathered at the base. He has claimed that as many as 30 CIA operatives were working in Australia during Whitlam's term, even though the Prime Minister was told there were never more than six. Marchetti has also charged that the CIA donated large sums of laundered money to help Fraser's conservative coalition overcome Whitlam's Laborites. The whole effort, claims Marchetti, was designed "to get rid of a government the CIA did not like and did not feel was stable enough."

Marchetti's accusations have prompt-



Sydney Sun

Secret U.S. base at Pine Gap: A purely defensive intelligence operation?

ed a number of trade-union leaders to claim that CIA agents attempted to infiltrate their organizations and try to persuade them to halt strike activities. Whitlam, who is facing a strong challenge for his post as leader of the Labor Party and would presumably benefit from a further airing of the charges, has yet to state that he believes they are true. But he has called for a full investigation to prove whether or not there is "a threat to civil liberties in this country which no democratic government could tolerate."

Along with his backers in the trade-union movement, Whitlam has also resurrected old charges that Australian intelligence agents conducted a break-in at Labor Party headquarters shortly after the 1975 campaign at the behest of Fraser's political forces. Roared trade-union and Labor Party leader Bob Hawke last week: "The politics of this country have reached a pathetic stage when the Prime Minister has to resort to the use of an internal security organization to try to undermine his political opponents."

In response, Fraser has accused Whitlam of "stealing" a large number of classified and unclassified documents when he was forced out of office and "leaking them to the press for his own political purposes." The Prime Minister has also announced a major restructuring of the nation's intelligence operations. But Fraser has steadfastly refused to launch a government probe into the allegations of CIA skullduggery and has even declined to assist U.S. Senate investigators who are looking into the matter. As a result, some newspapers have noted that the U.S., the alleged perpetrator of the misdeeds, appears to be showing more official concern about getting at the truth than does Australia, the supposed victim.

—KENNETH LABICH with RONALD KAYE in Sydney

PAKISTAN:

Power to the People?

After two months of bloody rioting against his rule, Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto announced last week that he would submit to a national referendum on whether he should continue in power. "What we have gone through has been a real nightmare," Bhutto told the National Assembly in an emotional 55-minute address. "I place my fate in the hands of the people."

Bhutto's backers cheered the announcement. But the opposition immediately condemned it as a ruse. During his speech, the P.M. made it clear that he would follow a victory in the voting with major changes in Pakistan's political structure. And critics insist that Bhutto's real motivation in calling for a referendum is to create a pretext for scrapping the country's parliamentary system in favor of one-man, one-party rule. "He is a dictator," charged one member of the opposition Pakistan National Alliance, "and now he wants his dictatorship to be endorsed by the people."

JAPAN:

Counterattack

The first plane finally made a test landing last week at Tokyo's Narita International Airport—but only after a fierce battle between angry environmentalists and Japanese riot police. One demonstrator was fatally wounded by a tear-gas grenade and hundreds were injured in a series of skirmishes over the sudden dismantling of two steel towers that were erected by local farmers six years ago to obstruct the airport runway. An estimated 3,000 helmet-clad students and farmers hurled Molotov cocktails and stones and burned several vehicles until riot-gear police subdued the crowd by firing their new automatic tear-gas guns at point-blank range.

The violent clashes occurred shortly after authorities quietly obtained a court order declaring the two obstructing towers illegal. The makeshift towers, symbols of the ten-year controversy over the environmental impact of the ultra-modern international airport, had successfully blocked all test landings ever since construction on Narita was completed in 1973. Since previous attempts to dismantle the towers had been blocked by protesters armed with bamboo poles, the police this time stealthily cordoned off access roads during the night and quickly moved in demolition crews equipped with mobile cranes.

Clash: By the time the environmentalists could muster their forces, the towers had already been destroyed. But later in the week, infuriated opponents of the airport returned, clashed with the police and began building another, wooden, tower on private land to obstruct the runway. "When I saw the iron towers fall, my hatred of the government and the [airport] corporation multiplied," said Issaku Tomura, president of the protesters' league. "We'll do whatever we can to close down the airport."

Despite such vociferous opposition, Premier Takeo Fukuda now hopes to open Narita Airport next November. But even if the environmentalists fail in their desperate efforts to obstruct further landings, authorities must still overcome two key transport problems before Narita can help relieve congestion at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport. High-speed train service to the airport is at least two years away and, in the meantime, the trip from downtown Tokyo to Narita takes a minimum of 90 minutes—a journey that undoubtedly will discourage many passengers. An even more difficult problem is that the airport corporation's plans to transport volatile jet fuel via a pipeline from the seaport of Chiba have been stymied by local residents and city officials who fear that the project may be unsafe. Given all those obstacles, there is a good possibility that the showdown at Narita will be prolonged even further.

—KAI BIRD with ALAN M. FIELD in Tokyo



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